Researches on Human Cloning

†4066. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any research on human cloning is going on in the country;

(b) if not, whether Government have received any proposal, so far, from any university or research institute, to conduct research on this subject; and

(c) if not whether Government propose to initiate any research project on this much discussed scientific subject ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT) : (a) Based on expert consultations, it has been decided not to financially support research on human cloning from government sources.

(b) and (c) No research proposal from University or Research Institute on this subject has either been received or has been initiated.

Losses of VSP

4067. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Vizag Steel Plant is facing the bleak prospect of being declared a sick unit;

(b) if so, the for how long this plant has been incurring losses;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted into this loss;

(d) whether, according to the report, the company has started incurring profit during 2001-2002.

(e) if so, to what extent; and

(f) what steps are being taken to further improve its working and profitability ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) At present Vizag Steel Plant is not facing the prospect of being declared a sick unit.

(b) Although RINL (VSP) has been making net losses since inception, it has improved its performance for the last two years which has reduced the net losses substantially.

(c) No inquiry has been conducted in to these losses. However, the performance of the company is reviewed periodically by the Government.

(d) and (e) RINL (VSP) has made Rs. 339 crores (Provisional) as cash profit during 2001-02, which is the best since inception.

(f) Some of the steps being taken to further improve its working and profitability are as under :

(1) Increasing the production level.

(2) Introducing cost reduction measures.

(3) Better marketing strategy to increase Net Sales Realization.

(4) Concentrating on sale of Value added products.

(5) Reduction of capital related charges.

(6) Diversification/improvement of product mix.

NGOs under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

4068. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) wheher there are any NGOs working under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports for the success of its programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the criteria for recognition of NGO's; and

(d) what are the function of such NGOs ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) No Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.